Purchase of Gunny Bags by FCI

1084. SHRI AMAR SINGH: will the Minister FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFARIS be pleased to state;

(a) Whether Government are awere that Food Corporation of India (FCI) had purchased gunny bags to the extant of 30.000 bales in 1997-98 of sub-standard quality of 750 per gram as against the 1029 gram per bag at a higher rate in comparison to the market rate on three days tender notice;

(b) if so, the reasons for purchasing the gunny bags with such a short notice; and

(c) how many qunny bags have been purchased and used till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) In October, 1997 Food Corporation of India purchased 27,161 gunny bales at a price of Rs. 12.81 per bag from the open market on competitive tender basis. Usually in private commercial transaction jute bags weighing 1020 grams are not used, and hence the weight of the bag was reduced to 907 grams per bag in the specifications. The supplies received were as per the specifications, and in case of 501 gunny bales found below specifications, payments have been withheld. The rates settled were not higher than the market rates.

(b) The estimated procurement of paddy by Food Corporation of India in Punjab in the Kharif Marketing Season 1997-98 was 18 lakh tonnes. Indents for 97,000 gunny bales were accordingly placed with DGS&D, Calcutta. Against these indents. 53,000 gunny bales only had been despatched by DGS&D by 4.10.97. However the actual procurement of paddy by Food Corporation of India amounted to 28.74 lakh tonnes as against 17.18 lakh tonnes in the previous year. In view of the heavy arrivals of paddy and the slow despatch of gunnies from Calcutta, Food Corporation of India had to float a short term tender for purchase of 30,000 gunny bales.

(c) 27,161 gunny bales were puchased and these were utilised in full.

Rampant Corrupation in Super Bazar

1085. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONCUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) Whether it is a fact that the rates of suppliers to the Super Bazar are higher than the rates at which the Kendriya Bhandar gets the same items through the same supplier or through other suppliers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to get the matter investigated from the Vigilance wing of the Ministry or the CBI and to tame the suppliers and to eradicate the rampant corruption in the Super Bazar; and

(d) whether the suppliers who do not grease the palms of the employees of the Super Bazar are harassed, victimised and blacklisted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi they obtain their supplies of branded products from the manufacturers or their authorised distributors at rates applicable to the bulk purchasers. In respect of certain other items which the Super Bazar procure through their approved suppliers, they obtain an affidavit from their approved suppliers to the effect that the rates offered by them are the lowest and that the approved suppliers shall not offer lesser price to any other ogranisation without giving the benefit of reduction to the Super Bazar.

(c) The Super Bazar being a commercial organisation has a Vigilance Wing headed by a Chief Vigilance Officer. The Vigilance Wing in the Super Bazar functions as per the guidelines given in the Vigilance manual and the instructions issued by the Govt.and the Central Vigilance Commission from time to time.